Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-16 and 18-26 (canceled).

17. (withdrawn) A method of treatment of hyperlipidemia, hypercholesterolemia and atherosclerosis, as well as other diseases or conditions in which HMG-CoA reductase is implicated comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a composition according to claim 1.

27. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for sustained release comprising as active ingredient pitavastatin, wherein the composition comprises : (1) an inner phase comprising 10-20% by weight of the total composition pitavastatin, 20-5[[0]]2% by weight of the composition microcrystalline cellulose, 1-15% by weight of the composition stabilizer; and (2) an outer phase comprising 15-40% by weight of the composition matrix former and 0.1-2% by weight of the composition flow agent.

28. (currently amended) The composition according to claim [[1]] 27, wherein the matrix former is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, and a hydrophilic polymer[[s]] ~~such as hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose~~.

29. (currently amended) The composition according to claim [[1]] 27, wherein the matrix former is hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

30. (currently amended) The composition according to claim [[1]] 27 , wherein the stabilizer is potassium bicarbonate or magnesium aluminium metasilicate.

31. (currently amended) The composition according to claim [[1]] 27, wherein the flow agent is silicium dioxide colloidal.

32. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for sustained release comprising as active ingredient pitavastatin, wherein the composition comprises : (1) an inner phase comprising 10.45% by weight of the composition pitavastatin Ca-salt, 44.8% by weight of the composition microcrystalline cellulose, 5% by weight of composition

hydroxyproplymeththylcellulose and 1.25% by weight of the composition potassium bicarbonate; and (2) an outer phase comprising 18.75% by weight of the composition hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (100'000 cps) ~~and~~ 0.5% by weight of the composition silicium dioxide colloidal, and 0.5% by weight of the composition magnesium stearate.

33. (new) The composition according to claim 28 wherein the hydrophilic polymer is hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxymethylcellulose, or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.